## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00728 061724Z

47

**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /040 W

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R 061652Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1662 INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, PO

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO PANAM SERVICE SUSPENSION

REF: (A) STATE 023090; (B) STATE 024553

- 1. THUS FAR PRESS REACTION TO SUSPENSION OF MOST PAN AMERICAN SERVICE TO LISBON HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LOW-KEY. ONLY THREE OF DAILY PAPERS HAVE REPORTED IT. EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON CONSEQUENT DISMISSAL OF MOST OF PANAM'S 106 LOCAL EMPLOYEES.
- 2. BOTH DIARIO DE LISBOA AND O SECULO, WHICH NORMALLY HIGH-LIGHT ANY "CAPITALIST" DIFFICULTIES, CARRIED RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE ARTICLES. THE FORMER HAD ONLY A BRIEF ITEM ON FEBRUARY 5, WHILE THE LATTER'S FEBRUARY 6 ISSUE CARRIED A LENGTHY ARTICLE BLAMING SUSPENSION ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND LACK OF CREDIT DUE MAINLY TO "WORLD CRISIS OF CAPITALISM" AND OIL PRICES. IT QUOTED LOCAL UNION SPOKESMAN AS WITHHOLDING COMMENT ON EMPLOYEE DISMISSALS UNTIL OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION RECEIVED (PAPER CLAIMED WORKERS THUS FAR INFORMED ONLY BY "INTERCEPTED TELEX"). SPOKESMAN SAID UNION IS TAKING STEPS TO FIND JOBS FOR THOSE DISMISSED, AND HOPED THAT TWA "PERHAPS COULD ABOSRB SOME," BUT ADMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LISBON 00728 061724Z

THAT GREAT MAJORITY WOULD MEET DIFFICULTIES.

3. USUALLY MORE MODERATE DIAIRO DE NOTICIAS WAS FIRST OUT (FEB. 2) WITH LONG ARTICLE OUTLINING WORKERS' SITUATION AND MINMIZING THEIR CHANCES FOR FINDING OTHER JOBS. IT REHTORICALLY ASKED WHETHER "FORD ADMINISTRATION" HAD THOUGHT ABOUT EFFECT OF ITS DECISION ON PORTUGUESE WORKERS THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS AWAY. IT ALSO PUT THE BLAME ON "BIG COMPANIES," WITH "COMPLICITY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT", FOR DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CAUSING CURRENT WAVE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: PANAM UNIONS APPEAR TO BE ACCEPTING DECISION ON SUSPENSION WITH RESIGNATION, AND CONCENTRATING ON OBTAINING MAXIMUM SEVERANCE BENEFITS FROM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TALKS STILL UNDER WAY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ISSUE WILL TAKE ON A MORE POLITICAL TONE IF THE WORKERS DO NOT BELIEVED THEY ARE OBTAINING FAIR TREATMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIR ROUTES, AIR SCHEDULES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

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